

## Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 LONDON 05408 062116Z

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----022614 062117Z /41

O R 062105Z APR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 4881

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LAGOS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

CONFIDENTIAL LONDON 05408

EXDIS - CAPE TOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PDEV, RH, UK US, MZ

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: REPLIES TO QUERIES FROM VIEIRA

REF: (A) STATE 088255; (B) STATE 086916

1. WE PRESENTED REFTEL (A) TO FCO AT OPENING OF BUSINESS  
ON APRIL 5. AFTER CHEWING ON PROBLEM THROUGHOUT DAY,  
FCO REFERRED FINAL DECISION TO FOREIGN SECRETARY OWEN.  
OWEN DECIDED THAT NO DIRECT RESPONSE SHOULD BE MADE TO  
VIEIRA, AND FCO HAS CABLED INSTRUCTIONS TO THIS EFFECT  
TO BRITISH EMBASSIES MAPUTO AND WASHINGTON. OWEN'S  
ARGUMENT IS THAT VIEIRA HIMSELF IS NOT SUFFICIENTLY  
IMPORTANT TO MERIT A TAILORED RESPONSE, WE ARE NOT  
NEGOTIATING WITH THE MOZAMBICANS, AND ANY COMMITMENT  
MADE TO VIEIRA COULD TIE OUR HANDS AT THE ARUSHA AND/OR  
ALL-PARTIES MEETINGS. ACCORDINGLY, OWEN'S RECOMMENDATIO  
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IS THAT US AND UK AMBASSADORS IN MAPUTO NOT VOLUNTEER  
ANY RESPONSE TO VIEIRA.

2. ON DEPARTMENT'S INSTRUCTIONS, WE WENT BACK TO FCO TO  
ARGUE THAT SHOULD VIEIRA PRESS FOR A RESPONSE, AD-  
LIBBING COULD BE MOST DANGEROUS. WE FURTHER NOTED THAT  
IT WAS NOT OUR INTENTION TO SEEK VIEIRA OUT TO DELIVER A

CATEGORIC LIST OF ANSWERS TO HIS QUERIES, BUT TO ENSURE THAT OUR AMBASSADORS SPOKE FROM A COMMONLY ACCEPTED POINT OF REFERENCE SHOULD IT BE NECESSARY. AFTER AGAIN CONSULTING WITH OWEN, FCO REPEATED THAT OWEN STILL FELT THAT OUR AMBASSADORS IN MAPUTO SHOULD AD-LIB."DRAWING, IF NECESSARY, ON PREVIOUS GENERAL GUIDANCE" IF PURSUED BY VIEIRA. IN NO CASE, HOWEVER, DID OWEN FEEL THAT OUR AMBASSADORS SHOULD GIVE VIEIRA THE IMPRESSION THAT THEY HAD RECEIVED SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR RESPONDING TO HIS QUESTIONS.

3. WE POINTED OUT TO OUR FCO INTERLOCUTOR (SPENCER) THAT REFTELS WERE PHYSICALLY AVAILABLE IN MAPUTO AND HENCE COULD BE CONSIDERED TO FALL IN THE CATEGORY OF "PREVIOUS GENERAL GUIDANCE." IN PRIVATELY ACKNOWLEDGING THIS POINT SPENCER NOTED THAT THE ONE PART OF REFTEL (A) WHICH GAVE THE FCO PARTICULAR DIFFICULTY WAS THE SECOND SENTENCE OF REFTEL (A) PARA 3 ("WE WILL, . . . AGREEMENT FOR THEM.")

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## Message Attributes

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**Subject:** RHODESIA: REPLIES TO QUERIES FROM VIEIRA

**TAGS:** PDEV, MORG, RH, UK, US, MZ

**To:** STATE MAPUTO

**Type:** TE

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